WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

No. 23. With which is incorporated The International Socialist Review for Australasia. SYDNEY : OCTOBER 1, 1910. Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney, for transmission by post as a Newspaper. PRICE, ONE PENNY.

SILVER LININGS.

Tho' our hearts grow sick and weary, and our limbs grow stiff and sore,
Yet the road was all the rougher to the men who marched before;
And as onward thro' the shadows still our toilsome way we wind,
We can leave it all the smoother to the men who march behind.

If we weary of the struggle ere the fight is half begun,
It will only be the later that the vict'ry will be won;
Tho' the blows we strike be feeble, if we only do our best,
When the final score is counted, they'll be reckoned with the rest.

We can do a lot of moving if we only have the will,
Tho' we may be rather weakly, yet we once were weaker still;
And there's many an earnest brother who will battle *for* the right,
If we only get to show him that we know the way to fight.

Tho' the darkness in the distance hide the dangers we must brave,
And the pathways of the future seem to point but to the grave,
Every pause upon the journey keeps us longer with the night;
Just before may be the turning that will lead us to the light.

Tho' we fall along the wayside ere the *dawning* of the sun,
Yet the cause will be the stronger for the work that we have done;
And perchance some other comrade who shall reach the morning tide,
Will have marched there all the firmer that we once were by his side.

Courage, comrades, then, and onward, though the way be dark and steep,
We shall get there all the sooner if we don't lie down and sleep;
And tho' tyrants may oppose us, and they play their low-down game,
You can bet your bottom dollar THAT WE GET THERE ALL THE SAME!

—ERN. T. COOMBE.

The Passing Show.

CONDUCTED BY OTUS.

In the olden time, when the shaggy-headed prodigal crept homewards, they killed the fatted calf to further their jubilations. In these more degenerate days, when quite a multitude of erring prodigals are racing back home to fling themselves, repentant and weeping, on Jim McGowen's paternal political neck, and likewise reach out for their share of what's going in the way of political boodle, *their* home-coming is celebrated by the slaughter of many aspiring fatted—no, fat-headed—political calves.

For an elaboration and an interpretation of this par. application should be made to the deputy-leader of the Labor Party.

In its annual report, the National Anti-Sweating League of Melbourne furnishes splendid evidence of the total failure of wages boards and palliative legislation. It states that married men are employed in livery stables at 35s a week, and that these men sometimes start at 6 a.m. and don't get home until any hour between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m. next *morning*, only to start again at 6 a.m. This occurs seven days a week, Sunday being the busiest day. Some watchmen are said to work 120 hours a week, and on occasions to do 42 hours on end. Watchmen at a ship company's wharf are, it is reported, working for 15 hours a night during 365 nights a year, and on occasions during their absence through sickness their wages are stopped. In fairly large Melbourne firms married clerks work for 27s 6d a week, or from £1 up to £3 a week. Among the large wool-broking firms, it is stated, men work from 9 a.m. until 11 or half-past 11 o'clock at night for £2 10s a week. Some work all through Sunday without pay in the busy season. This, in spite of the fact that there are 71 wages boards in existence.

The National Anti-Sweating League should now turn its guns on Josiah Thomas's sweat-shop.

While the Cookites were shrieking at Fisher over the outrage of the Land Tax, Willy Webster was threatening the Government that if only the details were departed from, it would be so much worse for the Government. In the near distance Webster thinks he sees a land-tax compromise crawling Fisherwards.

If you vote for Leg-Irons, and get them, why grumble?

The *Vanguard* (which, by the way, is a very stodgy *Vanguard*) reports that Mr. J. A. Dobbie, among others, spoke in support of Messrs. Fitzgerald and Morrish at a recent meeting. Will the *Vanguard* tell us if this is the same Mr. J. A Dobbie who was several times a Labor candidate, and who, at the dictates of a freetrade conscience, took the Protestant Hall, and—with Frank Cotton in the chair—cursed the Labor Party with an exceeding loud curse, and explained why he was returning to the freetrade fold—which being interpreted meant the Leg-Irons fold?

Sydney Labor Council is obsessed with middle-class politics, and sinks deeper and deeper in the mire of Opportunism, ruthlessly sacrificing industrial interests. This explains why the Council pledges itself to the criminal conscription scheme of the alleged Labor Party, and passes out the mildly anti-militarist proposals of the Peace Society.

The *Appeal to Reason* declares that ex-President Roosevelt is insane. "Within the past few weeks the matter of the sanity of Theodore Roosevelt has been discussed in private by numerous alienists and scientists over the United States and even the whole world," the *Appeal* says. "The conclusion has been practically unanimous that he is suffering from mental derangement. The situation, the *Appeal* is privately informed, is worse than is allowed to leak out. . . . It will explain the vagaries and inconsistencies that have characteristised the acts and utterances of Theodore Roosevelt, the overweening egotism of the man, his positive and insulting methods. It will, in a measure, excuse the deceit, the criminal acts perpetrated by him, as in the case of the San Juan fight and the Alton steal. But it makes him all the more dangerous. While he himself may be irresponsible, an insane man is capable of untold damage wherever his counsel is sought or power is placed in his hands. It is with deep regret that this matter is made public, but the *Appeal* believes the people should be apprised of the situation, both that they may be protected and that the unfortunate man may be shielded from designing politicians who wish to use his reputation to forward their own ends."

If you vote for J. McGowen and Co. and two months' hard for striking—and get it—what have you to cry about?

A clear note was struck at Sydney Labor Council, when, in the debate on the Peace Society's letter, Mr. Carey insisted that the principle of training was an incentive to war.

When the London *Times* prints a leading article in appreciation of the Fisher Government's policy, it's surely time for the Australian workers to realise that the parting of the ways has been reached.

Every second boodler in N.S.W. is said to have sent Arthur Rae a telegram commanding, urging, or entreating him to vote for Yass-Canberra—and the money interests of the Campbell concern.

Allan McDougall says no one sent him any telegrams. *They* knew how he was going to vote? Who were *they*?

Aubrey Vincent Levy told the Supreme Court that, since his arrival in Sydney in March last, he had *bought a piano for 10s* and sold it for £12!

Aubrey Vincent Levy might have made even more than that, if he had held shares in the Gloucester Estate—or, better still, if he had been solicitor to Lands Scandals Willis.

On the Yass-Canberra squabble in the Senate the Government won by exactly nothing. The ayes and noes having tied, the amendment (to squelch Yass-Canberra) was decided in the negative.

"Mon, but it was a great victory," as Andy Fisher whispered to Billy Hughes.

The manner in which the U.L.U. forced the S.A. Premier to his knees over the Thompson scandal should be a lesson to all Australian unionists to maintain a stiff backbone when dealing with Opportunist Governments, whether they carry the label of Labor or Leg-Irons.

"Poverty is a blessing so thoroughly disguised that no one recognises it."

"What will you do with the loafer under Socialism?" asks the anti-Socialist. "Give him the full product of his labor," we reply.

A section of the Federal Labor Party in the Senate revolted over the Yass-Canberra job; and the Fisher Government was called upon to make a bitter fight against some of its own supporters to save the financial prospects of the Campbell family in connection with the Capital Site.

Senator McGregor jibed Senator Lynch; Senator Lynch said all who voted for Yass-Canberra were mugs; Senator Blakey accused McDougall of having lied to the House as to the river he fell in; Senator Barker declared that the Government "had neither heart nor conscience," and denounced Fisher and Co. for their exhibition of brute force; Senator McGregor laughed and sneered at Senator Barker's grammatical errors; Senator Ready wanted the matter sent to a referendum vote—he reckoned to get the capital ready for occupation would cost five or six millions; Senator McGregor interjected: "Anything down for lunatic asylums?" Senator Ready retorted: "There's no necessity—the hon. Senator is living in Melbourne"; Senator Gardiner (Jupp, who broke from the L.P. and supported Joe Cook in bygone days) accused other Labor members of treachery to the party, and wanted to describe them in the language of the shearing shed; Senator de Largie wanted to know why Gardiner and the others couldn't take their gruel like men; Senator Gardiner said he never did have time for traitors (shades of '94 and Joe Cook!); several Senators said this wasn't a party matter; Senator Gardiner declared he had no time for pretenders, and Senator Stewart said Gardiner wasn't worth bothering about, and described his speech as the most disgraceful exhibition he had ever seen (though how one could see a speech has yet to be explained)—he had abused his own colleagues and dragged politics into the gutter; Senator McGregor complained that Stewart was reflecting on the dignity of Parliament, and Stewart turned savagely on his leader, and told him: "You needn't worry about dignity. You have none, neither in the heavens, nor in the earth, nor in the water under the earth. You never had any dignity. Consisteney is more valuable than dignity, and better appreciated."

All the Senators mentioned are members of the Labor Party, and the whole unseemly wrangle took place over a matter that doesn't concern the workers.

If the Labor Government could be got to make half as determined a fight to win a strike or for a great working-class principle as it put up to sustain the corrupt Yass-Canberra job, something would be moving indeed!

Mr. Hughes (who has become so sternly autocratic that he couldn't even trust the people with a vote on the Federal Capital site question) has solemnly announced that finality has been reached in that matter. Mr. Hughes must breathe much *more* freely now that the Duke of Argyle's Campbells' interests are safe.

Aeroplanes were used with great success at the military manœuvres in England, Germany, and France. But they wouldn't risk taking George H. Reid up in one. Said the aeroplane wasn't built for carrying gas balloons.

The *Daily Herald* of Adelaide, during the recent strike of U.L.U. men against the Labor Government, straddled a very sharp rail indeed. Like the L.P. itself, the official labor paper was too bourgeoistic and opportunist to condemn the anti-unionist attitude of Verran and Co., and it was too fearful to denounce the strikers. So out of the depths of its rabbit-like heart it poured this forth:

"There are grounds, too, for the belief that some members of the United Laborers Union are utterly opposed to the evolutionary methods of the Labor Party, and are willing to seize any opportunity of embarrassing the Labor Government. . . . The opponents of Labor's methods—secret enemies and avowed opponents alike—are building hopes upon the possibility of disruption, but they are doomed to disappointment."

This is one method of attempting to wreck a strike. Of course, Frank Lundie, Clark, and several others were the objects of that assassin stab; but the blow missed. And in the end the Labor Party had to surrender and comply with the unionists' demands.

Melbourne's Lord Mayor promises that city landlords will, as a result of the land-tax, raise the rents of their tenants. Of course! And the tenants will pass it along to the workers—the *fool* workers, who pay all the time.

Land taxes are no solution. There's only one way. Let's take the land back from the land brigands who now hold it.

Mumps on the Powerful!
Dumps in the Cabinet!
Chumps in the Labor Party!
And there you are!

Victoria's Leg. Assembly—which can't find time to legislate to protect its tramway men from the murderous conditions imposed on them by the Tram Co.—is putting through a bill to protect homing pigeons.

Coercionist Wade's voice is beginning to go, and he may have to give up addressing election meetings.

It's wonderful how the echo of the rattle of those leg-irons affects a man's voice.

But we really thought it was Wade's knees that were "going."

"If it were necessary to put 50 or 100 men in jail to enforce the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act," said Labor-member Fred. Flowers, M.L.C., "it should be done."

In the Open Column part of this issue, Mr. A. H. Berry makes an effort to reconcile Science with Religion. His position will not find acceptance with most Socialists; but, nevertheless, the manner in which he presents his case will provide interesting reading for all.

The doddering *Register*, of Adelaide, in supporting John Verran's attitude in connection with the U.L.U. strike, said: "The whole situation is abundantly suggestive of what may follow the dominance of the Revolutionary Socialism which Mr. Verran says, boldly and firmly, is seeking to upset the Labor Party. . . . Because he took this attitude against the union's representative—and the same attitude was adopted towards others—Mr. Verran is denounced as a violator of Labor pledges; and a fierce campaign against the Ministry and their supporters is threatened. This surely is sheer nonsense."

When papers like the *Register* denounce militant unionism and support the Labor Government, no further proof of the right and wrong of things should be needed.

In 1898 the Wickham Labor League ran a candidate against John L. Fegan, and Arthur Griffith refused to speak in support of the Labor man because Fegan was the candidate of the Reid Party, which was then receiving the support of the Labor Party, and the said L.P. generally cursed the Wickham branch for endangering Reid's "democratic legislation" by fighting John L. To-day Mr. Griffith and other L.P. men are calling Mr. Fegan a rat and quite a multitude of other bad names.

George H. Reid has been banquetted again—this time in Paris. Will the man never stop eating?

Adelaide *Register*, referring to the United Laborers' strike:

"The public should take note of the tendency of aggressive Socialism to degrade the functions of government, and to encourage unrest and anarchy. 'If they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?' Socialism aims at bringing all industries under State control, and converting every man into a State servant; yet its most advanced votaries are proclaiming themselves disloyal to State authority in a comparatively trivial matter, and setting up a sectional union as an antagonist to the Government which claims to represent the whole people."

This is about too funny for anything. The silly old paper has yet to learn Socialism does NOT aim at bringing all industries under State control. It aims at abolishing the State, and bringing all industries under the collective control of the workers. Socialism aims at establishing the Socialist Republic; and the Socialist Republic is the Industrial Commonwealth. John Verran's Government is only a committee of the capitalist class, and the State (in South Australia as elsewhere) is the instrument of exploitation and oppression. If the *Register* isn't suffering from inherited stupidity, it is a shockingly prevaricating, dishonest, and disreputable bit of rag.

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The International Socialist

Official Organ of Revolutionary Socialism in N.S.W.

Under the control of Joint Executives, International Socialists.

H. E. HOLLAND, Editor.

Offices: 61 Goulburn-street, Sydney.

Headquarters: 274 Pitt Street, Sydney.

All Business Communications to be addressed to the Manager.
All Literary Communications to be addressed to the Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION:

Australia—4s. per year; 1s. per quarter.
New Zealand—8s. per year; 2s per quarter.
Other Countries—8s per year; 2s per quarter.

The International Socialist will be sent FREE OF CHARGE to Schools of Arts, on condition that it is duly filed.

Obtainable from

The International Socialist Group, Sydney.
The Socialist Party of Victoria, Melbourne.
The Socialist Party of South Australia, Adelaide.
Barrier Socialist Group, Broken Hill.
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Committee and General Meetings.

THE following meetings will be held at 274 Pitt-street, Sydney, during the forthcoming week:—

Tuesday, 8—S.F.A. Administrative Council.
Monday, 7.30 p.m.—Club Executive.
Monday, 8.30 p.m.—Joint Executives.
Monday, 9.15 p.m.—Party Executive.

To our Contributors.

CONTRIBUTORS to THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST are reminded that our space is exceedingly limited. Therefore short articles and crisp and snappy paragraphs will have the best chance of securing publication.

Writers are asked to note that preference will be given to articles dealing with current industrial and political events from a Revolutionary Socialist viewpoint. Articles must not exceed 1000 words.

Open Column contributions exceeding 500 words cannot be printed.

Write legibly, on one side of the paper only, and leave good space between the lines.

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When the sweated Post and Telegraph Electrical and Mechanical Branch Association met at the Trades Hall last Friday evening, the first thing they did was to drink the toast of "The King"—figurehead of the Capitalist State which so relentlessly enslaves them.

If you help the Press Fund, you help to kill Capitalism.

When we learn to sing that Britons never will be masters, we shall make an end of slavery.—G. BERNARD SHAW.

The Capitalist Press.

BY J. BLUMENTHAL.

IN digesting the contents of the daily papers the observant individual is immediately struck with the fact that very little elevating matter is published. Day after day, year after year, we read the same class-perverted cable news recording the enormously important events concerning royalty, of the sayings of capitalist politicians, of the chasing of criminals, etc. We read of the daily routine of every-day incidents, on every subject under the sun, excepting that concerning the direct interest of the workers. Three parts of these papers are devoted to advertisements, that production of useless capitalist competition being interspersed with some of a character which would not be tolerated by respectable journals. On a week end the monotonous daily grind for profits is lessened somewhat with a few articles that make a cheerful oasis in a Sahara of mediocre journalism, concerning a mighty lot about nothing much. But even these have very little educational value, covering in the main such topics as "A visit to Jamberooland," "The spring flower," "The case for W. M. Hughes," and such like uninteresting subjects.

* * *

The morbid tastes of the public are satiated with blood-curdling accounts of outrages and crimes, with crosses on the pictures to indicate the exact spot to the inquisitive reader. Columns are devoted to an exhaustive digression on the frills of Churchmen, but that mighty factor for good, Science, is entirely neglected. Nothing whatever of an illuminating character, or anything that would be of value to humanity, is published. In the continuous recording of crime, vice and misery, not a single hint is given the "free" worker, who is compelled to buy the capitalist paper in the absence of one with his own views, that there must be a cause to all these effects.

* * *

The incipient shallowness of the capitalist press can be seen in the manner in which it seriously approves of those palliatives of bad economic conditions: Saturday collections, fresh air funds, consumptive homes, etc. But, behind all this attempt to sidestep a fundamental principle can be seen a deliberate attempt to keep the workers in a state of mind that will banish all thoughts of defining the causality of social evils. The capitalist class makes no mistake in understanding that the vast mass of the people are instinctively intelligent: that is, the good in them, by a better condition of environment, would impel them to overthrow what is altruistically bad, as, for instance, the capitalist system of production.

* * *

The capitalist class owns not only the bodies of the workers, but even their minds also: and without intellectual development the physical evolution of mankind is an impossibility. The educative factor of the modern press is, therefore, with few exceptions, nil. Even the so-called Labor papers come under this category, for one would expect something more than a mere recounting of the sayings of "Labor" politicians.

To educate those who are ignorant should be considered the greatest of honors, for an educated people would not tolerate the conditions that now exist. As the press is the greatest factor in disseminating news, of bringing the thoughts of all classes of men and women from a wide sphere to the individual, it behoves all class-conscious workers to earnestly support the Socialist press that will do something more than continuously wail at effects.

Economics of the Modern Church.

BY THE SLAVE.

I AM a Socialist, likewise an Infidel, not an uncommon combination, though not the universal rule, as the apologists of the bourgeoisie would have their dupes believe.

Infidel though I be, the Church as a capitalist institution possesses considerable attraction to me. I patronise it on occasions as I do the theatre. There the student of human nature secures the material to exercise his faculties *ad libitum*.

I went to Church the other Sunday night. I enjoyed it. All day I had been chafing under the influence of a philosophic mental excursion beyond the sordid confines of Capitalist Commercialism into the Elysian fields and the smiling gardens of the Socialist Republic, and I had realised that for many years to come I would remain an unwilling sacrificial victim relentlessly offered up week by week to the Moloch of Greed and Profit. I felt depressed, and concluded that I needed amusement. I decided to hear the Rev. John Ferguson, an eminent Scotchbyterian, and an ultra "wowser," as his show presented the greatest possibilities of mental refreshment; and I was not disappointed. After the orthodox hymn-warbling, sandwiched with readings from the Bible, in which Jehovah was shown to emulate the bloody spirit that "Little Billee" would inculcate in the sons and daughters of the Australian working-class, I was regaled with a sermon entirely characteristic of the modern Christian Church. It dealt with the conversion of the ancient Israelite cocky-farmer, Elisha, and his ultimate "downing of tools" to enlist in the army of the Lord. The pulpiteer digressed considerably from his subject, but I willingly forgave him, for his digressions were, to me, at least, the most interesting portions of his dissertation, which displayed an astounding puerility of mind. His first statement of note was that "the great mass of the workers are trying to level things down or level things up, forgetting that the brilliant intellectual men would rise to place and power despite all such attempts." I concluded from the accompanying portions of his speech that the "brilliant intellectual men" he spoke of are the successful Captains of Industry—the sweaters and exploiters, those who live an idle, parasitic life upon the spoils wrung from the sweat and blood and prostitution of the working class: those who lay the lash upon the naked back of unpaid labor by virtue of their possession of the implements of wealth production. And I thought of the relative social value of the Rothschilds, princes of German and English finance, and Claude Bernard, greatest of all Germany's great physiologists, who worked and died in abject poverty: I compared the relative wealth and social utility of the Duke of Westminister and Professor Huxley, of Rockefeller and Abraham Lincoln; and I smiled grimly.

Whilst pondering thus, my ears were rudely assailed by the following brilliant outburst: "I advise all young men to do their work in the shop, the factory, and the office with *burning enthusiasm*": and the way in which the lips of a Sydney sweat-shop proprietor, who was sitting near by, smacked together was distinctly audible throughout the church. The next morsel of enlightenment thrown to the congregation was that "there is nothing so accursed as class-consciousness," and it suddenly dawned upon me why Hugh Dixson is such a staunch supporter of the Y.M.C.A.

I looked around me and saw working men and working women, full 800 of them, eagerly digesting the ridiculous twaddle thus rammed down their receptive gullets. I remembered that in every country in the civilised world men and women of keen, stinging intellect—the very flower of our race—were spending and had spent the best years of their lives rotting in foul Capitalism's prison cells for fighting uncompromisingly for the rights and liberties of these people who show such extraordinary mental apathy where their material interests are concerned, and an equally extraordinary activity in pursuing a heaven which is rapidly disappearing before the irresistible onward march of Reason and Science.

Coming away, I realised more thoroughly than ever before that the Modern Christian Church, and especially that portion designated the Protestant Church, is purely a bourgeois institution. It is simply a buttress and a bulwark of the Capitalist system. Its priests and prelates are conscious and unconscious hirelings of the ruling class. By propagating the doctrine of content and teaching the working class to look to heavenly joys for compensation for earthly woes, they seek to bolster up Class-Society and perpetuate an almost effete economic system. Through all the ages the dominant religion has served as a powerful weapon for the preservation of the interests of the governing classes, and Christianity is no exception to the rule. All Socialists should look with suspicion upon those who seek to introduce a religious issue into a purely economic question. They must realise that the modern Church is part and parcel of Capitalist Society, and that with the destruction of the present economic structure of society this institution will disappear, and a cleaner, saner, and nobler religion, Humanism, will evolve upon the foundation of the Co-operative Commonwealth.

At the Target.

BY ISHMAEL.

THEY can deprive a fighter of his liberty, but they can't deprive Liberty of her fighters.

Contentment is not a virtue; it is a malady.

When the wage-slave surrenders his right to strike, he is reaching out for his right to be struck.

As surely as the Collection Plate is the soul of Churchianity, so is the Dividend the soul of Industry.

It takes the man who has grown rich at the expense of fools to properly appreciate folly.

The mere right to mark a ballot paper once more makes the wage-slave free than does the right to fly convert the aviator into an angel.

When in doubt send in an uppercut.

Inspiration cuts a fine figure, but Conception shifts the rocks.

Law is the monied umpire of the Privileged, drawing a salary from the Exploited.

If there is such a thing as a weapon less effective than boxing-gloves at 1000 yards that weapon is Arbitration.

Those who work on empty stomachs may solace themselves with the thought that they are filling the nutriment receptacles of those who *don't* work.

Some are born bound; others have fetters thrust upon them.

Courts of Justice are the places where the socially-wronged are legally wronged.

The habit of being governed is one of our *bad* habits.

The "wowser" can't escape from himself though he may dodge the devil for a while; so after all Satan has his revenge.

We workers have one privilege. We are allowed to produce wealth for the drones. We'd as soon die as lose it, judging by the way we hang on to its coat-tails.

It means a knighthood for "public-spirit" to-day, but tar-and-feathers may yet come in to its own.

Slobber is the middle-class form of flattery.

What a frightfully mean-spirited, little-minded person Mr. Leg-Irons Wade is! Because Broken Hill unionists very properly refuse to permit their members to drink with him at Sydney Eight-hours banquets he dips in the ooze and slime of our civilised vocabulary, says "it shows the sort of men they are," shrieks some silly untruths about the bread war, and jubilates over the larrikin antics of a parson and the hooliganism of a number of Sunday-school roughs who made a murderous attack was made on a recent Socialist meeting. The Coercion man ought to leave off trying to run a country, and get himself appointed to a mud-punt.

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Why I am a Socialist.

Some Sentimental Reasons.

BY E. J. BRADY.

I.

WHEN I come to give reasons for being a Socialist I find that each fresh consideration of the question brings up a host of influences that affect me.

I think I am a Socialist largely from sympathy. You get to the core of the Celtic character through the emotion rather than by reason. It is said that an Irishman is always "agin the government." Having regard to the nature of class government all the world over, this statement may be accepted as a compliment to Celtic perception.

Government in its existing form is more often than not a system of brute force carefully organised to preserve the rights and privileges of the small exploiting class at the expense of the health, security, and happiness of the great exploited majority.

For this reason I am "agin the government."

Except in my own personal satisfaction I stand to lose rather than gain by being a Socialist. It is not yet a popular faith. Its open profession in Australia, as elsewhere, is likely to militate against individual success. But if a man is convinced of a Truth, if he realises that that Truth has an intimate, an ever-present bearing on the lives of his fellow creatures; and if at the same time he possesses the power of expression, especially as a writer, he cannot always keep silent. He will be moved to get up and make a confession of faith, to declaim the Wrong and proclaim the Right.

At one period in my life I did in some measure lose faith. The whole question seemed impossible to me. A sort of despair was engendered in my mind; the deflections and shortcomings of individuals contributed largely to the passing wave of pessimism, but further knowledge and study taught me that the Movement and not the Individual is the thing that counts. The System rather than Society is to blame for the fact that even among Socialists themselves performance often falls short of profession. Moreover in most lives, I expect, there is a transition stage between adolescence and maturity, when one loses the ideals of youth and has not yet reached the calmer philosophy of experience.

The process of Evolution, cosmic, physical, social, and ethical, is slow. Between tailless ape and pre-glacial man there is a wide gap. Between the medieval method and universal franchise lie ages of painful human effort. Between our higher conceptions of the Future and our commonplace To-day there stretches a long hard road—which the feet of Humanity have yet to travel.

I say that I am largely a Socialist through sympathy. My sympathies are first of all with the weak and helpless, the stinted poor and the shabby genteel; with the sweated, ill-fed woman and the fatherless child; with all the downtrodden, exploited, victims of our crazy, selfish, social system.

If the unmeasurable effort of all the ages has left us no other heritage than sympathy for weakness and suffering it has not been put forth in vain. It is this—the higher Humanity—that distinguishes man from the brute. It entitles him to believe that he possesses a Soul.

The man who fights entirely for his own hand, who closes his heart against sympathy and is deaf to its appeal, is ethically no better than the primal savage. Modern society is justified in protecting itself against his predatory instincts even to the point of cutting off his head. Unfortunately, the existing Social System offers a wide field, far too wide for the exercise of strength against weakness. That natural law which has been termed by scientists as the "Survival of the Fittest" has been artfully made to read the survival of the strongest. If this latter interpretation (put forward as justification for spoliation) were in reality the Law, the huge beasts of the Tertiary period would not have perished; the lion and the gorilla would have prevailed over Man; brutal savagery would not have given place to comparative civilisation, nor paganism adapted itself to Christianity, nor absolute despotism anywhere be deposed.

The doctrine of force is NOT the law of Evolution, although it has been so read by advocates of Individualism. The whole trend of Evolution everywhere is towards equilibrium. The perfection of types by the destruction of grosser, less-fitted forms is a result of that Law. The Horse, as we know it, is a fitter animal than his three-toed equine progenitor; just as Wilberforce is a fitter type of humanity than Wade. Eugene Debs will occupy a pedestal in the future when Theodore Roosevelt will be only a name upon a stone. Debs is intellectually a far stronger man than Roosevelt. While Roosevelt is slaying lions Debs is killing lies. In the ascent of Man from Low to High, Debs stands many rungs of the ladder above Roosevelt. It is a curious feature of human development that, in the assessment of human worth, each succeeding generation has in most instances reversed the judgment of its predecessor on this point. The greatest have become the least, and the least, in time, been deservedly exalted.

Jesus Christ is perhaps the most notable example of this anomaly in all history. Despised by the great and powerful of his period, ostracised by the rich men and the hierarchy of Judea, and finally put to ignominious death at their instigation, Christ sowed the seeds of a revolutionary philosophy which after nineteen hundred years still leavens the more earnest thought of civilisation.

For some centuries the collectivist doctrines taught by Jesus were practically applied by his believers and followers.

When, under the infamous Constantine, pagan practice and pagan government, with all their social and economic injustice, were grafted on to the pure teaching of the Master, Christianity sank into a laxity of application which has continued through varying phases down to our own time.

Modern socialistic investigation of the gospels has revealed the fact that in his attitude towards material affairs Christ was essentially a collectivist. The Early Fathers of the Church—Saints Clement, Ambrose, Basil, Chrysostom, Jerome, and Gregory—each in his own way, condemned the rich, declared against private ownership, and generally voiced economic sentiments that are nowadays condemned as extreme by churchmen. How any Christian minister worthy of his salt can profess himself an Individualist has always been a mystery to me.

Regarded in its true light, Christianity is a doctrine of Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, and Peace. No ecclesiastical sophistry can overcome the fact that Christ arraigned the rich, and made the weak a charge upon the strong. His sympathy was ever with the Laborer; as witness that wonderful economic insight that dictated the parable of "Unto this Last," the finest lesson in practical Socialism that he has left to the world.

Towards the world-old victims of individualism, the prostitute and the thief, he was significantly merciful. Recognising, even in the crude state of society in which he lived, that prostitution with woman is far more often necessity than choice, he admitted the Magdalen into his own inward circle of acquaintainces.

Even when the vestry people of his period brought before him a woman taken in adultery and demanded judgment, he emphasised his attitude towards human frailty by writing the most delightful condemnation of unctuousness and hypocrisy that was ever set before the astonished eyes of the "unco guid."

Altogether the religion that he taught was a religion of mutual aid and brotherly love.

Its basic principles are synonomous with those of Socialism, and Socialists, whether they believe in the Divinity of Christ or not, are steadily endeavoring to bring about—despite the opposing forces of re-paganised Christendom—that "Kingdom of God on earth" which Christ and his early followers believed and taught.

Recognising many years ago that true Christianity and Socialism are in accord, I was materially strengthened in my convictions that Socialism is right, and if creedism and churchism do not accept this interpretation of Christian philosophy, so much the worse for them in the long run.

I have watched the attitude of the Churches towards the question of the coming Social Democracy for twenty-three years with interest. I am afraid that, as a body, they are still at the tail of the race. No wonder the good pastors wonder "why the masses are not at church."

Socialist Fables.

The Man Underneath.

A HEAVY dray broke down in the street. A man was crushed beneath it. On top of the dray was a load of merchandise, and on top of that sat a lot of capitalists.

A crowd of men gathered and began to discuss how to relieve the man underneath. They discussed so hard that the people finally created them into a Parliament.

Then they called in a lot more men called Political Economists, who decided that the man had always been crushed; it was his natural condition, and it was useless to think of releasing him.

The Statesman said it would overturn civilisation to let the man get out from under the dray, and so it would.

Next, chairs were endowed in universities to teach that the man was not fit to survive, or that he had too much over-production on top of him, and even if he got out he could not walk because of lack of experience in walking.

Then came the Theologians, who said the man's heart was bad, and must be saved first. Also, that if his heart could be got right he would not need to have the weight taken off.

And the Theologians secured a life job for centuries, just for preaching that the man could not possibly be anywhere than just where he was.

Finally, a man came along who said: "Why, take the stuff off and let the man go free."—GEORGE D. HERRON.

A young man named Marr, employed at Penhall Bros.' blacksmith' shop, had several of his fingers crushed in a drilling machine.

S.F.A. News & Notes.

South Australia.

BY H.S.C.

THE annual conference of the United Labor Party, held in Adelaide last week, carried a large number of resolutions, but what practical use they are is a matter for speculation, as the chairman stated that, the conference not being a platform one, they could not place anything on the L.P. platform.

One interesting feature of the conference was the effective way in which the parliamentarians secured control of the executive for the ensuing twelve months, all the executive officers being parliamentarians.

There was a resolution moved to the effect that a paid secretary and organiser be appointed for the U.L.P., but they discovered that, although the membership of the U.L.P. is large, the enthusiasm is small, and the amount necessary to pay a secretary could no; be raised. An amendment was moved that a partially-paid secretary be appointed, but the chairman (Klauer, M.L.C.), on a point of order taken by Rep. Roberts, ruled it out of order on the grounds that this conference could not alter anything done by a previous conference. The famous R. P. Blundell, M.P., was then re-appointed hon. secretary, with an assistant.

All through the conference it was plainly shown that the U.L.P. is purely a politicians' movement, and that it is run by the politicians. Probably this is the reason no mention was made of the laborers' strike, broken pledges, etc., which have taken place since the Government took office. One of the labor members recently moved to the effect that the Commissioner for Railways (Moncrieff) should not hold the dual position of Railway Commissioner and Chairman of the Tramways Trust. Each position carries a salary that is a bit above the "living" wage the labor politician preaches about to the worker; but Honest John did not favor the resolution, and protested vehemently that Moncrieff was a good officer, and the man for both positions. The resolution was lost, and Moncrieff still has his two jobs.

It is stated that whilst Moncrieff believes that in his particular case one man two jobs is a good rule, it does not apply to any employees under him. One railway employee was appointed secretary to a union, the position carrying a small salary, and it was stated that he would have to leave the railway if he accepted the position.

When moving the adoption of the report at the half-yearly meeting of the Licensed Victuallers' Association on Tuesday last, the president, Mr. Sheridan, stated: "The Liquor Trades Defence Union had brought about amicable arrangements with its employees, and as a body of hotelkeepers they were desirous of doing the same. They had already met their employees to bring about that object. They did not desire a wages board, nor did the employees, and so far as it was in their power the hotelkeepers intended to facilitate the action of their employees in forming a union WITH THE SAME OBJECTS THAT HAD PROVED SO BENEFICIAL IN THE CASE OF THE LIQUOR TRADES ORGANIZATION."

Readers will remember the account of the smoke social held by the Liquor Trades Employees Union recently, when the employers were present and their health drunk and the amicable relations gloated over.

One of the local S.F.A. members was employed in the liquor trade, and at the request of a member he joined the Liquor Trades Employees Union; but, as he is an industrial unionist, he has been a bit of a thorn in the side of such a simple sectional union. At the last meeting he moved that a request be made by the union for a rise of wages in the trade, and said many employed in the trade do not get the "living" wage. But the chairman refused to take the resolution. A few days later our comrade was invested with the ancient order of the sack. As he was informed a week or two previously that his employer intended to rise his wages, as he was a willing wage slave, he is not too much enamoured of unions that are so chummy with their exploiters.

The country organiser of the U.L.U., who recently returned from a tour of the country, states that members of the local committees of the U.L.P. in many parts of the country are endeavoring to get laborers to join the U.L.P., instead of the U.L.U., on the plea that it only costs a shilling to join the U.L.P., and the Labor members can get concessions for the worker quicker than the U.L.U. But the laborers can read and think and, so in most cases they refer these tricksters to the actions of the L.P. in the past, and so give them the lie direct.

Our Party's propaganda work is still forging ahead. The sale of THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST is increasing rapidly here. At our meeting in the Park last Sunday a friend in the audience gave 2s to one of the sellers, saying, "Give two dozen away to those who cannot buy one; it is good."

On Sunday night, in the Socialist Party Hall, Wakefield-street, Comrade Gillespie spoke on "The Scientific Basis of Socialism" to a good audience. The speaker made many good points, and an interesting discussion took place at the conclusion.

A speakers' class is held every Tuesday evening, a class for the study of evolution on Thursday night, and an economic class every Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, in the Socialist Party Hall. We extend a hearty invitation to all to attend these meetings.

Outdoor meetings are held on Saturday nights in Adelaide and Port Adelaide; Sunday afternoon in the Botanic Park.—21.9.10.

Sydney Jottings.

BY F.J.R.

The Internationals gave themselves over entirely to enjoyment on Friday evening, and did it successfully by carrying out the long-looked-for fair and dance. From 8 in the evening till 5 the following morning dancing and other forms of enjoyment were revelled in. The tableaux were splendid. There was a large attendance, and the fair was a great success.

The matter of comrade Dierk's arrest will be dealt with in next issue.

The chair was taken by Feldhusen in the Domain on Sunday. Riley, Walsh, and Holland spoke to a very large and intensely interested audience.

Large crowds listened to the speakers at the night meetings at Goulburn-street and Market Place.

Among the visitors to Sydney headquarters this week were many Socialist comrades from the Dutch war-boats.

Administrative Council.

At last meeting, correspondence was received from Tom Mann; G. Madgewick, secretary Socialist Party of S.A.; International Socialist Bureau, Brussels; National Executive Members, Melbourne; N.E. Members, Sydney; Fraser and Jenkinson, Melbourne; Mario Bravo, secretary Argentine Socialist Party, Argentine.

Tom Mann intimated that, owing to circumstances he could not control, he would be unable to attend the Copenhagen Congress, and that he had accordingly transferred his credentials to Comrade Probz, a member of the S.F.A., who was going to Copenhagen as a visitor.

Resolved that it be a recommendation to National Executive that Tom Mann be informed that the N.E. disapproves of his action in transferring credentials, and that in future no delegate be permitted to transfer credentials.

Resolved that correspondence from the Argentine be published in the official papers.

The Press Fund.

	£	s	d
Already acknowledged -	44	13	5
J. John - - -	0	1	0
Slavik - - -	0	1	0
G. Theiss - - -	0	1	0
Loos - - -	0	1	0
Friend - - -	0	0	6
Per O. Jorgensen (Book 36)—H.M., 2s; H.D., 1s; Dunker, 1s; Pope, 1s; Germi, 3s; Sliced, Wagner, 1s; Brodie, 1s; R. Wenzel, 1s. - -	0	12	0
Per O. Jorgensen (Book 37)—K. Welzel, 1s; A. Wenzel, 1s.	0	2	0
Per H. E. Holland (Book No. 20)—W. Rosser, 2s 6d; J. H. Corbett, 2s; Friend, 1s -	0	5	6
	£45	17	5
Advanced as Loans.			
Already acknowledged -	6	0	0
Total - -	51	17	5

All communications to be addressed to O. W. Jorgensen, secretary, Press Fund Committee, 274 Pitt-street, Sydney.

Answers to Correspondents.

S.T., Leichhardt.—Peter Bowling is due for letters next Saturday, Oct. 8. Post not later than Friday, 5 p.m.

R.T., Wellington, N.Z.—Received. Books forwarded.

A.U., Brisbane.—Letter forwarded to Peter Bowling as desired. Writing you re other matters.

J.McC., London; E.M., Goulburn; E.A., Sydney; M.A.T., Leichhardt; ISHMAEL.—Received. Will use as space permits.

A SYDNEY BOOTMAKER.—Next week.

G.H.T., Adamstown. Subs. and Press Fund donation received. Thanks.

TRUTHSEEKER, Newcastle.—Will answer that question shortly in a leading article.

J.D.K.A., Coorambong.—Will print the "Song of the Sword" next week.

DANDELION.—Verse good. Subs. received. Thanks. Writing.

M.D., Lithgow.—Received.

A.B., Adelaide.—Change made as directed.

H.S.O., Sydney; S.L.P. MEMBER, Sydney; T.R., Kurri.—Answered next week.

I.W.W. CLIMPIE, Sydney.—Next week.

A.W.G.M., Sydney.—Many thanks. M. has already called.

J.W.F., Melbourne.—Writing.

D.O'S., Fitzroy, Vic.—Subs. received. Thanks.

Propaganda Fixtures.

DOMAIN—Slade, (chair), Walsh, Wilson, Mrs. Harris, Hirst, Holland.

MARTIN PLACE—Sloan (chair), Slade, Wilson.

GOULBURN-STREET—Harris (chair), Hirst, Hocking.

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The Sweated Postal Workers.

BY H. E. HOLLAND.

SOCIETY is the machinery Humanity employs to get the best out of life. With all the means of wealth production in the hands of a few, we do achieve this. But we only get it for the few. There is misery for the many. In the Socialist Republic we shall get the best out of life for ALL THE PEOPLE.

The State is the class gear that controls and regulates the operations of the social machinery. The State of to-day is the political State; it is the Class State. It exists only to regulate the social machinery in the interests of the ruling class.

All the adjuncts of the Class State—the public departments, including the G.P.O.—exist for this purpose.

All Governments of the bourgeoisie likewise exist for the same purpose.

In the Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels lay it down that "the executive of the modern State is but a committee for managing the common affairs of the bourgeoisie." They also say that "when in the course of development class distinctions have disappeared and all production has been concentrated in the hands of a vast association of the whole nation, the public power will lose its political character. Political power, properly so-called, is merely the organised power of one class for oppressing another."

The Revolutionary Socialist movement aims at destroying the Class State. We are not parliamentarians in the sense that other parties are. Parliament is part of the Class Machinery. We would destroy it along with the Class State. This is the only reason for political action by the working-class.

This, then, explains why under Labor Party rule we find the same (or worse) brutal sweating conditions that characterised the rule of all other parties.

The Labor Party does not pretend to have the destruction of the Class State in view. It upholds and administers the Class State—its Federal Executive, as Marx and Engels have said, is only a committee of management for the whole of the exploiting class. It grinds down the workers in its own immediate employ in order that the interests of the "owners" might be conserved.

The Revolutionary Socialists give no support to the Labor Party—expect no effective action on behalf of the working-class from it. The Labor Government to us is in exactly the same position as any other big employing concern exploiting Labor.

It is rather amusing, therefore, to find a writer in the *Daily Telegraph* accusing us of giving support to the Labor Party because we have advised the Postal Employees, whose demands are so exceedingly moderate, that they should learn a lesson from the manner in which the United Laborers' Union of South Australia forced John Verran to back down over the Thompson affair. The *D.T.* correspondent infers that a Revolutionary Socialist party must never take sides in an industrial fight, and says we are only doing it for *personal* and *political* reasons. We have heard this jaundiced shriek so long from the various organs of Capitalism that we are getting quite tired of it—the amusement it once afforded us is wearing off.

The same remarkable writer in the *D.T.*, after having practically accused us of being favorable to the Labor Party, concludes by further accusing us of making exposures of the post-office sweating "to stir up trouble for political reasons for the Labor Government."

Of course, all this sort of misstatement, where it is not deliberate and due to personal disappointment and animus, arises out of an utter inability of the "pure and-simple" element to understand the Revolutionary Socialist position.

The Revolutionary Socialists declare that the working-class is ALWAYS RIGHT, AND NEVER WRONG, when it makes war on the Master Class, and therefore the Revolutionary Socialists will always fight the battle of the working-class when it meets the master class on the industrial field. This is why we now fight in the battle of the postal employees just as we have fought in the battles of the other workers in the past, just as we are ready to fight in the industrial battles of all the working class anywhere and everywhere.

* * *

As we have urged a thousand times before, the Labor Party is of the Master Class. The workers have got to fight it. This is a hard lesson to learn apparently—if we judge by the action of Sydney Labor Council, head of craft unionism in N.S.W.

Branch Labor Leagues recently sent resolutions to the Labor Council, drawing attention to the sweating of the Labor Government's postal employees, and asking that the Council take action in the matter. The executive of the Council, for political reasons, DID NOT PERMIT THESE COMMUNICATIONS TO GO TO THE COUNCIL MEETING, but forwarded them to Mr. Thomas, who replied that "the men get periodic rises up to £138, and could stay away occasionally without anything being said; furthermore, they were allowed three months' sick leave," and so on.

Even this reply was suppressed so far as the Council was concerned, the Executive sending it along to the protesting Branch Leagues, with an intimation that the Executive considered the answer eminently satisfactory.

At last week's Council meeting a union delegate endeavored to raise this question, but was told that ALL THAT BUSINESS WAS SUSPENDED TILL AFTER THE ELECTIONS.

This incident exposes the manner in which industrial interests are ruthlessly sacrificed to expedite the political opportunism of a middle-class party.

Let us examine Mr. Thomas's statement to Sydney Labor Council. With the "periodic rises" we shall deal later. The statement that employees may stay away occasionally without notice being taken of their absence, is described as delightfully false. An employee may stay away ONE DAY IN A WEEK, but not more than three days in a year, without notice being taken, but if he should be ill more than one day, he must furnish a medical certificate—which costs him 7s 6d, and DETECTIVES will be sent to his house to ascertain if he is really ill. "They get sick leave," says the P.M.G. Yes, at the end of each FIVE YEARS in the service a man is entitled to three months' sick leave!

* * *

When Mr. Sam. Mauger was Postmaster-General, he was also president of the National Anti-Sweating League of Victoria. Funny? Rather! President of the National Anti-Sweating League and head of the most brutally-barefaced sweatshop in all Australia!

But it must be admitted that, bad as things were for the postal employees when Mauger was P.M.G., they are even worse now under the alleged Labor Government, which came into power on the opportunist cry that they could and would give the workers better conditions than the Fusionists offered.

A comparison of the following items will show this:

"Examinations under Deakin Government (S. Mauger, P.M.G.) for Letter Carrier, Mail Driver, Postal Assistant.—*Commonwealth Gazette*, No. 32, 4.7.09, page 1037, exam. No. 126.—Persons eligible to enter: Males, 18 to 30 years of age.—Salaries: 18 years, £60 per annum; 19 years, £72; 20 years and over, £84."

"Examinations under Fisher Government (Labor-member Thomas, P.M.G.).—For Letter Carrier, Mail Driver, Postal Assistant.—*Commonwealth Gazette*, No. 51, 13.8.10, page 1385.—Persons eligible to enter: Males, 18 years to 22 years of age.—Salaries: All appointees to commence on £60 per annum (23s per week).

It will be seen that the Labor Government has reduced the age at which men might enter the service by 8 years—from 30 to 22; and the workers should note that, although they are to be written off as too old for employment in this branch of the Labor Party's postal department at 22 years of age, they are not to be considered too old to be compelled to fight to protect the property of the master class at that age.

Moreover the Labor Government has cut the wages down by £12 for the first year for men who enter at 19 years of age, and by £24 (or nearly 10s a week) for the first year for men who enter at 20 years of age. When the writer was speaking on a recent Sunday, a friend interjected that the Labor Government had "not had time" to remedy the conditions of the postal employees. They have had time to reduce their pay, anyhow.

Applicants who thus enter the service of Labor-member Thomas at 23s a week have to pay an entrance fee of 7s 6d, furnish a medical certificate which costs 10s 6d and a birth certificate which costs 2s, and also insure their lives for £150. The cost of the said insurance is 1s 3d a week, reducing the "salary to 21s 9d a week!

* * *

Another exam. under the Labor Government.—For Telephonist; male, 16 years to 21 years of age.—*Commonwealth Gazette*, No. 56, page 1524, exam. No. 243.—Commencing salary, £32 per annum. Candidates must possess acute hearing, normal eyesight, clear voice, distinct enunciation, be free from throat affections; must be able, standing erect, to reach 6ft. 3in.; stretch from finger-tip to finger-tip, 5ft.

Not one member of the Fisher Ministry could fulfil all of those requirements.

In this case also the applicant must pay an entrance fee of 7s 6d, medical certificate 10s 6d, birth certificate 2s, and insure for £150.

The salary, £32, figures out at 12s 4d per week. Deduct cost of insurance, 1s 3d per week, and the nett salary is 11s 1d per week, with a promised rise of 3s per week per annum. However, taking 18 years as the average age at which the employee is taken into the service, under the P.S. Commissioners' ruling re Statutory Rule 83, it will take the telephonist ELEVEN YEARS to reach £114 per annum, or 7s 3d per day. He will then be 29 years of age, and Josiah Thomas's church people will be shouting to him that Socialism will abolish marriage and destroy the home. But Josiah Thomas won't let him get married, because he won't give him enough pay to keep a wife on.

* * *

Not long since, Mr. Alf. Carter, of the Factory Employees Union, and Mrs. Dwyer made exposures concerning the manner in which women and girls employed in the laundries and white-work establishments are sweated. A notoriously bad case was that in which the employer was a Chinaman.

A comparison of wage-rates shows that the capitalistic Chinaman denounced to the Labor Council by Mrs. Dwyer gives the sweated girls in his employ just slightly better wages than Labor-member Thomas gives to some of the women and girls in his big sweatshop. When the insurance deductions are made, the Chinese sweater's rate pans out at 7d a day better than the Labor member's.

Let the *Commonwealth Gazette*, No. 58, 17.9.10, talk again:—Exam. for women, 16 years to 26 years of age; salary to start, 12s 4d per week.

Remember that it is a Labor Government that offers (and is paying) women of 26 years of age less than 12s a week.

The Socialist Party of S.A. suggests that simultaneous anti-militarist demonstrations be held by the S.E.A. in the various centres, to protest against the Federal Government's conscription law.

Albert Fry, an employee of the Gas Company at Mortlake, was killed while attending to an engine.

Mental Dynamite.

Or Little Lessons to Learn.

BY GEORGE R. KIRKPATRICK.

Lesson Eleven: On a Logical Necessity of a Working Class Political Party.

1. At the present stage in the evolution of "civilised" society, the first vital problem before society is the INDUSTRIAL FREEDOM OF THE WORKING CLASS.

2. The industrial freedom of the working class requires the destruction of the present class-labor system; that is, of the present wage system.

3. The destruction of the wage system requires a complete reconstruction of society industrially.

4. The complete reconstruction of society industrially requires the complete control of society politically.

5. The complete control of society politically requires the complete possession of the direct powers of Government.

6. The complete possession of the direct powers of Government can be secured only by means of working-class organisation on Revolutionary Socialist lines.

Lesson Twelve: On Warnings.

1. Warning Number One: "Government ownership" of railroads, telegraph, city water-works, and the like, is not Socialism, and would not in a thousand years strike down the wage-slavery of the working class. The tyrannical Tsar of Russia, the tyrannical Emperor of Germany, Tom Johnson, the tyrannical King of Belgium, Gregory Wade and the tyrannical Emperor of Austria—all of these are in favor, for example, of the "Government ownership" of railroads, and unanimously favor the wage-system; they unanimously scorn and dread the thought of the powers of government getting into the control of the working class for the destruction of the wage system.

Everywhere in the civilised world a publicly-owned industry always has naturally been administered, is now naturally administered, and always will naturally be administered primarily to the special advantage of the class that has possession of the powers of Government. Hence, "public ownership" of a railroad, for example, while the capitalist class is in possession of the powers of government, is mere "moonshine" for the working-class, so far as full, final freedom for the working class is concerned.

2. Warning Number Two: In the defence of capitalism.

Frequently capitalists are elected or appointed to political office.

Frequently intellectual prostitutes of the capitalist class are elected or appointed to political office.

Occasionally a working class man (or even Party) is elected to a political office—standing on a capitalist party platform, that is, a platform utterly silent on the destruction of the wage system; boosted by capitalist newspapers, in a campaign financed by capitalists—petted or flattered or bribed or threatened into stupid docility in the political service of the capitalist class; unavoidably a traitor to the working-class to take political office under such management; unavoidably a traitor to the capitalist class, if, thus elected to political office, he does not "deliver" capitalist political goods. In each of these cases capitalists have nothing to fear.

The industrial freedom of the working-class is INFINITELY MORE IMPORTANT than anything else, and the BUILDING UP of a working-class party for the freedom of the working-class—THIS IS THE FIRST THING.

Capitalism's Trail of Blood.

Or, The Dignity of Labor.

For if blood be the price of all your wealth,
Good God! we have paid it in full.

A STEWARD named Boyce, of the steamer Greenwich, fell down the gangway, and was killed.

A. Robinson was killed while driving a load of wood at Tingalpa (Q.).

Whilst engaged shunting at Port Pirie, J. Elston was killed. His foot got caught between the points, and several loaded waggons passed over his body.

Samuel Kirk, an employee of the Gold Estate Dredging Company (Q.), had one of his legs fractured while working on a barge.

James Woodrow was working on the steamer Aorangi, at Mort's Dock, when a fan crushed him against a sheet of iron, injuring his thighs and arms.

Walter Smith, working on the North Coast railway, was seriously injured through being run over by a trolley.

William Platts, employed at Maxwell Porter's sawmills, Tuncurry, was working a circular saw when a piece of timber flew off, striking him in the region of the heart, and killed him.

William James, a shoveller, employed at Great Boulder mine, Kalgoorlie, died from injuries which he received through falling down the sand pass from the 1400ft to the 1600ft. level.

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THE MAN WITH THE PORTFOLIO.

[For The International Socialist]

BY ISHMAEL.

He comes to us with wisdom crammed;
A halo hovers o'er his pate;
'Tis bliss his gracious paw to grab
And vertically agitate.

Rude hireling scribblers leap at him,
Some on his sacred bunions dance!
While snappers shoot the winsome smiles
That flit across his countenance.

He tells us (and we fain would stoop
And osculate his "plates of meat")
That he intends to introduce
A Bill to mitigate the heat.

Then falls a silence as of tombs,
Not e'en a nose essays a sniff,
When pond'rously he layeth bare
His scheme to vanquish Beer and Biff.

He claims that measures "safe and sane"
Have ever met with his support,
Coercion Acts and Leg-iron deeds
Defends with supercilious snort.

A fair deal for the Bottom Dog
With strident yell doth he demand,
But to protect the one on top
He must, he tells us, take a stand.

And when with howls the welkin rings,
When hair flies fast and skins are rent,
He'll dog the canine nethermost
To "amicable settlement."

A limpid tear its freedom seeks,
And, gem-like, glides his couk adown,
As he affirms with rolling eye
His death ess loyalty to the Crown.

This Socialism, so he says,
He is prepared to thump and lash
And cast into the Outer Dark,
Where tears descend and molars gnash.

While he is by we must not fear
Those evils that on life intrude;
Nay, shout "Hoor-y!" and fork our spare
Spondulix out in gratitude.

Then by-and-bye our plebeian eyes
Shall yet another glimpse obtain
Of "Higher Life" and "Nobler Aims,"
When he addresses us again.

And should it chance that Providence
Selects us to distend a maw—
The Man with the Portfolio
Will see we are not eaten raw.

International Notes.

Germany.

Revelations have recently come out to show how among the old aristocracy the Inland Revenue is defrauded. A well-known public man—Herr Von Gertad—recently showed how Bismarck had defrauded the public purse in this respect, and now the leader of the Conservatives, Baron von Rechthofen, is accused of the same thing, and to judge by the peculiar methods taken by him to clear his character, it seems only too likely to be true.

The Social-Democrats in Stuttgart have passed a resolution strongly condemning the action of the Baden deputies in voting for the Budget.

The number of organised Social Democrats in Germany has now risen to 750,000, which is an increase of 89,321 in the year, or 14.13 per cent. The men have increased by 89,521, and the women by 20,386. There were held in the course of the year 28,826 members' meetings for comrades, and 13,814 public meetings. Twenty-three millions leaflets were distributed and 2½ millions pamphlets and calendars. The number of the municipal representatives rose from 2,240 to 2,497. The punishments inflicted on comrades by the police and judges for work in the service amounted in all to thirty-seven years' imprisonment and 30,524 marks (£1,526 4s) fines. The number of subscribers to the seventy-four party dailies amounted to 1,041,498 persons.

The publisher of the "Social-Democratic Song Book," Georg Umbreit, had to appear recently at Dortmund on a charge of "irritating different classes of the population to deeds of violence against each other" by means of the "Prussian Suffrage Marseillaise," the "International," the "Sons of Labor," and Herwegh's "Pray and Work." The court decided that the "International" and the last two verses of the "Sons of Labor" were illegal, and ordered them to be withdrawn from circulation and the plates destroyed. On the other hand, Umbreit could not be held responsible, as the incriminating songs had previously been published in the *Dortmunder Arbeiterzeitung*. He was accordingly acquitted.

The Socialist Congress at Magdeburg favored general, equal, direct, and secret suffrage for both sexes over the age of 20. A protest was carried against the Czar being the guest of Germany under the protection of Prussian police, and the expulsion of the "crowned criminal" was demanded. A sensation was caused by a delegate reading the secret instructions issued by the general of the 7th Army Corps, in the event of a Socialist rising, NOT TO GIVE THE SOLDIERS TIME TO THINK LEST THEY SHOULD DISOBEY ORDERS.

Spirit-drinking in Germany declined in the last 11 months from 50,500,000 gallons to 36,000,000 gallons, mainly owing to the boycott by the Socialists, which is intended to hit the landowners, who supply the material for the manufacture of schnapps.

Japan.

The reported discovery of a plot against the Emperor has furnished the Japanese Government (according to cable reports) with an excuse for placing a number of Socialists under arrest, although investigations have utterly failed to connect the Socialists in any way with the "plot."

The Government is determined to eradicate the socialist element before it attains a dangerous growth, and the arrests reported were made in pursuance of that policy.

The authorities are also censoring the press and prohibiting the circulation of the books of Count Tolstoi and General Kuropatkin.

Great Britain.

The free speech fight at Hastings has not yet ended.

The *Social-Democrat* for August contains a readable article by H. Quelch on "The Prevention of Destitution." J. Addison concludes his somewhat lengthy but most fascinating paper on "The Survival of the Fittest," and H. W. Hobart writes on "Mallock v. Marx." "The Budget of the German Workman," from *Die Neue Zeit*, is continued. R. R. Rentoul, M.D., writes on "Proposed Sterilisation of Certain Degenerates," and altogether the number is good, and might be read with profit by Australian Socialists. The price of this well got-up magazine is only 3d.

Austria.

Having been refused certain demands affecting the wage-rate, Austrian railway workers have entered upon a passive resistance campaign. Nobody left work; everyone remained at his post, obeying every order, rule, and regulation in such a way that the whole railway system has been thrown out of gear, and the service is almost tied up. The railway men say they will pursue this plan of campaign until their demands are satisfied.

A Call for Help from Argentina.

The general secretary of the S.F.A. has received the following letter from the Socialist Party in the Argentine:

"To the Socialist Parties of the World.

"By means of martial law, and under a state of siege, the Congress of this country is enforcing the tyrannical law of repression, the principal points of which you will find reprinted in the accompanying journal. In view of the urgency of this communication we were not able to send a full translation.

"Under this law, the penalty of death is summarily inflicted on women and minors from the age of 18 as well as men.

"The law pretends to combat anarchism, but the Government takes advantage of it to suppress Socialist propaganda, crush the industrial organizations, and restrict the right to strike, as well as the right of public meeting and other civil rights.

"This law was passed in the brief space of 48 hours, in compliance with the demands of the bourgeoisie, after the explosion of a bomb in the Theatre Colon last Sunday.

"Once more we ask you to do all you possibly can to make this law widely known in order that we might be assisted in combatting this brutal manifestation of the political and social reaction of the ruling class of the Argentine, and notably that we might be aided in fighting against the death penalty and maintaining the right of free speech and the propagation of our ideas.

"Our daily paper, *La Vanguardia*, has not been able to appear once since martial law was proclaimed, and the state of seige commenced. When this state of siege ends we shall re-commence publication. Our offices and workshops are being re-erected by national subscription. We ask, we expect, your material and moral support to give strong new life to our daily paper for agitation and propaganda, and to strengthen our national action for the emancipation of Labor and the triumph of Socialism."

Bernard Shawisms.

He who believes in education, criminal law, and sport, needs only property to make him a perfect modern gentleman.

The man who listens to Reason is lost. Reason enslaves all whose minds are not strong enough to master her.

Men are wise in proportion, not to their experience, but to their capacity for experience.

If we could learn from mere experience, the stones of London would be wiser than its wisest men.

Those whom we call brutes had their revenge when Darwin showed us that they were our cousins.

The thieves had their revenge when Marx convicted the bourgeoisie of theft.

Hell is paved with good intentions, not bad ones.

Those who minister to poverty and disease are accomplices in the two worst of all the crimes.

He who gives money he has not earned is generous with other people's labor.

Life levels all men; death reveals the eminent.

A Column of Clippings.

The politician may tell you that the heads of perspiration on your brow are more precious than the jewels of a coronet, but *he* does not wear that kind of jewels.

The Empress of Russia has a passion for perfumes. She collects them with the enthusiasm that other people bestow on pictures or old china. Amongst her treasures is a scent distilled from a rare variety of wild rose found only in the south of her dominions. It costs, she boasts, not less than fifty pounds a drop. But there is an infinitely costlier perfume being prepared for her royal house. It is distilled from the blood of the people, and its name is Freedom.

If there is a crime that should bring the crimson wave of shame to the cheek of man it is child labor.

We have to-day capitalistic class government. Every department is controlled absolutely by the capitalist class.

Workers should not and will not be satisfied until they get all they produce.

There is machinery enough to produce wealth for all. There is no necessity for poverty or the fear of want.

Said the London *Star*:—The murder of Ferrer has provoked a storm of anger which is unparalleled in the recent history of Europe. There is something majestic in the universal passion of righteous wrath which has shaken the nations and struck terror into the hearts of the Spanish criminals. . . . Spain is now an object of execration from one end of Europe to another. . . . She cowers in the leprous silence of her censorship under the lash of a whole world's scorn.

Shall this country be owned by the few, or shall it be owned by all and operated in in the interest of all?

Socialism is to prevail in the very near future. Machinery is to civilise us in spite of ourselves. This means good to all and evil to none.

Law is a bottomless pit; keep far from it.

Laws grind the poor, and rich men rule law.—Goldsmith.

Another prophecy of Bellamy is coming to pass. The telegram exchange in Wilmington, Delaware, is serving its patrons with music over the telephone by means of a phonographic connection to the telephone. These things are great, of course, but the people who need them most are under this system unable to have the telephone in their houses because of the tribute asked by those who own the franchises.

Ferrer's real crime was that he had founded the "Modern" School and had worked to free education in Spain from the tyranny of the priest; and, in consenting to mask clerical persecutions behind a trumped-up political charge, the Spanish Government gave a painful exhibition of moral cowardice and of its subservience to the priest-politicians who are ruining the country.—*The Nation*.

Socialism is not hard to understand as a principle and method. It is merely a plan for ending the exploitation of the worker through collective ownership and democratic control of industry. That is all there is to it.

Socialism embraces a science, interpreting the development of society and explaining the influences behind history. As a science it shows that the present system grew out of conditions, and that other conditions, growing out of the present system, will bring socialisation of industry.

If ever there was a pure and exalted patriot, it was Ferrer.—London *Star*.

The dignity of labor consists chiefly of dig and nit.

A Liberal boom is always accompanied with an explosion.

Socialism will make possible private property for every one on earth. It is possible for only a few now.

The impossible task before the capitalist is the projection of the past into the future. His day is done.

The execution of Senor Ferrer is the last and, perhaps, the worst crime of the Spanish clericals against their country.—*The Nation*.

Socialism involves a philosophy that tells how the present system exists wholly for purposes of despoiling the worker of a larger portion in the interest of the few owners, and how this may be averted, and the worker secure his full product through the collective ownership and democratic control of the machinery of production and distribution.

Capital is merely stored-up labor. Who should get the benefit of it—the man whose labor created it, or the lucky speculator and idler?

Socialism is opposed to the worker dividing up—as he must do where dividends are paid. Dividend has the word divide in it.

The class war is a B-A-D thing, say the capitalists, because it means that the workers kick at being robbed. They want their victims to hold still while they're being bled.

If the party of your father is good enough for you, why is not the log school house, the old plow, the old methods he used, good enough for you? Why not be consistent?

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BROKEN ON THE WHEEL.

THREE children played on the attic floor.
The babe that lay in the cradle made four.

A widow sat at her wheel and sewed,
Many her wants and much she owed.

And all must be met from what she made,
The pitiful pittance the sweatshop paid.

The eldest came running. "Mother, dear,
The milkman with his bill is here."

She emptied her purse. "Whatever betide,
Baby must have his food," she sighed.

She sewed and sewed, not lifting her head,
The smallest pause would mean less bread.

"O, mother, the grocer asks his pay."
"Tell him 'to-morrow'—I've nothing to-day."

And on she sewed, the sad-faced one,
Who buried her husband a twelve-month gone.

"I'm hungry, mother!" "There's bread on the shelf;
Give to your brothers, and help yourself."

"Do you not want some of the wee bit here?"
"I have no time to eat, my dear."

With hand above and foot below,
She wrought—no thought save to sew and sew.

"O, mother, here is the mortgage man."
"Tell him 'to-morrow'—I'll pay if I can."

A growl—he was gone. Her face was wan,
And weary was she, yet sewed she on.

"The landlord, mother!" "To-morrow," said she;
Nor ceased in the least, nor turned to see.

Thus, all the morning, and all the day,
In her carpetless attic, she sewed away.

"Mother, some supper!" "To-morrow," she said,
"My task will be done and I'll bring some bread."

To-morrow, the answer to all would give:
Money for debts and food to live.

The children slept, and sobbed as they slept,
Still at her dreary task she kept.

They woke in the sunlight; she was seen
With head sunk low on the sewing machine.

The wondering little ones looked from the floor;
The wheel was still and she sewed no more.

Forgetting in wonder to ask for bread,
"Mother is resting at last!" they said.

All through the morning and near to noon,
They wondered and waited: "She'll wake up soon."

The mortgage man and the landlord came,
Sharp to the second. 'Twas all the same.

She moved not, spoke no, as they drew nigh;
She gave no heed to the children's cry.

They hailed her, touched her, lifted her head,
And fell back abashed. She was dead! She was dead!

The morrow she hoped for had freed her indeed
From this dreadful world of cant and greed,

Where the wise men tell of delights in the sky,
While of need right here the people die!

—W. R. Fox, in the *Workers' Call*.

Patriotism and Militarism.

A Menace to Liberty.

BY EMMA GOLDMAN.

(Continued.)

A WRITER on the militariy conditions of America, in a recent article, commented on the power of the military man over the civilian in Germany. He said, among other things, that if our Republic had no other meaning than to guarantee all citizens equal rights it would have just cause for existence. I am convinced that the writer was not in Colorado during the Patriotic regime of General Bell. He probably would have changed his mind had he seen how, in the name of Patriotism and the Republic, men were thrown into bull-pens, dragged about, driven across the border, and subjected to all kinds of indignities. Nor is that Colorado incident the only one in the growth of the military power in the United States. There is hardly a strike where troops and militia do not come to the rescue of those in power, and where they do not act as arrogantly and brutally as do the men wearing the Kaiser's uniform. Then, too, we have the Dick military law. Has the writer forgotten that?

The Dick military law was rushed through Congress with little discussion and still less publicity,—a law which gives the President the power to turn a peaceful citizen into a bloodsthirty mankiller, supposedly for the defence of the country, in reality for the protection of the interests of that particular party whose mouthpiece the President happens to be.

One writer claims that militarism can never become such a power in America as abroad, since it is voluntary with us, and compulsory in the Old World. Two very important facts, however, the gentleman forgets to consider. First, that conscription has created in Europe a deep-seated hatred of militarism among all classes of society. Thousands of young recruits enlist under protest, and once in the army, they will use every possible means to desert. Second, that it is the compulsory feature of militarism which has created a tremendous anti-militarist movement, feared by European Powers far more than anything else. After all, the greatest bulwark of capitalism is militarism. The very moment the latter is undermined, capitalism would totter. True, we have no conscription; that is, men are not forced to enlist in the army, but we have developed a far more exacting and rigid *force*—necessity. Is it not a fact that during industrial depressions there is a tremendous increase in the number of enlistments.

Thinking men and women the world over are beginning to realise that Patriotism is too narrow and limited a conception to meet the necessities of our time. The centralistion of power has brought into being an international feeling of solidarity among the oppressed nations of the world; a solidariiy which represents great harmony of interests between workingmen of America and their brothers abroad than between the American miner and his exploiting compatriot; a solidarity which fears not foreign invasion, because it is bringing all the workers to the point when they will say to their masters, "Go and do your own killing. We have done it long enough for you."

This solidarity is awakening the consciousness of even the soldiers, they, too, being flesh of the flesh of the great human family. A solidarity that has proven infallible more than once during past struggles, and which has been the impetus inducing the Parisian soldiers, during the Commune of 1871, to refuse to obey when ordered to shoot their brothers. It has given courage to men who have mutinied on Russian warships during recent years. It will eventually bring about the uprising of all the oppressed and downtrodden against their international exploiters.

The proletariat of Europe has realized the great force of that solidarity, and has, as a result, inaugurated a war against Patriotism and its bloody spectre, militarism. Thousands of men fill the prisons of France, Germany, Russia, and the Scandanavian countries, because they dared to defy the ancient superstition. Nor is the movement limited to the working class; it has embraced representatives in all stations of life, its chief exponents being men and women prominent in art, science, and letters.

This country will have to follow suit. The spirit of militarism has already permeated all walks of life. Indeed, I am convinced that militarism is growing a greater danger here than anywhere else, because of the many bribes capitalism holds out to those whom it wishes to destroy.

The beginning has already been made in the schools. Evidently the Government holds to the Jesuitical conception, "Give me the childish mind, and I will mould the man." Children are trained in military tactics, the glory of military achievements extolled in the curriculum, and the youthful minds perverted to suit the Government. Thus innocent boys are morally shanghaied into Patriotism, and the military Moloch strikes conquering through the nation.

However, mere denunciation will not solve this great problem. What we need is a propaganda of education for the soldier: anti-patriotic literature that will enlighten him as to the real horrors of his trade; one that will awaken his consciousness to his true relation to the man to whose labor he owes his very existence.

It is precisely this that the authorities fear most. It is already high treason for a soldier to attend a radical meeting. No doubt, they will also stamp it high treason for a soldier to read a radical pamphlet. But, then, has not authority from time immorial stamped every step of progress as treasonable? Those, however, who earnestly strive for social reconstruction can well afford to face all that; for it is probably even more important to carry the truth into the barracks than into the factory. When we have undermined the patriotic lie, we shall have cleared the path for that great structure wherein all nationalities shall be united into a universal brotherhood—a truly FREE SOCIETY.

Open Column.

The Vista of Ages

And the Voice of Love.

BY A. H. BERRY.

I.

THE prehistoric man and his hammer, the barbarian and his slaves, the feudal lord and his serfs, the capitalist and worker of to-day, the law and army and navy, are seen by the student of evolution, history, economics, and sociology, to be connected. The student also recognises that the spoils of the savage, barbarian, and feudal lord—wrung from the victim, slave, and serf respectively—are identical with profits, rents, and interest, which are unjustly (if legally) taken by the capitalist from the worker of to-day.

The average supporter of the Bible unthinkingly rejects the theory of Evolution, whilst on the other hand the average supporter of Evolution and Socialism is inclined to speak lightly of the Bible. May not, however, their views be reconcilable? If the description of creation contained in Genesis be interpreted allegorically, and it is also remembered that the Bible through its prophets condemns royalty, masters, profits, rents, and interest, there are no points of difference between Science and Religion in their sociological bearing, except such as can be explained away by the Higher Criticism. Undoubtedly the ethics of Socialism are the ethics of Christianity; but Christianity is more than this: it has its foundation in the supreme law of love, without which a socialistic administration would be just as liable to become as great a failure as the Mosaic administration.

If, however, any of my religious brothers and sisters who oppose Socialism claim that Genesis is a literal detailed statement of the earth's origin, then those who hold to this view are bound to admit the force of the declaration of the same authority concerning the use of the earth. God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." (Gen. 1, 26.) *Only Man was exempt from the dominion of men.* All men were to have dominion alike, for "There is no respect of persons with God." (2 Chron. 19.7; Rom. 2.11; Eph. 6.9; Collossians 3.25.) And lest any should become the servants of others, he declared, "The land shall not be sold forever." (Lev. 25.23.) And when his chosen people had ignored those principles, and poverty and oppression had followed, he said again, "Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field till there be no room and ye be made to dwell alone [or without land] in the midst of the land." (Is. 5.8.) In this way the Mosaic legislation strove to suppress the RENT curse by making every Hebrew his own landlord. As to INTEREST and PROFITS, we read in Leviticus 25.36, "Take thou no usury (interest) of him or increase" (profits). Many other parts of the Old Testament equally condemn both, and in the 5th chapter of James in the New Testament, we see that in the fourth verse, PROFITS are branded as FRAUD. These passages settle for ever for those who believe in the Bible the question of ownership in favor of all the people. On the other hand, as a result of conclusions drawn from a study of Evolutionary Science, it is equally impossible to find any support for private monopoly in the ownership of what nature has so clearly provided for all.

If there are any of my Christian brothers inclined to condemn me for the position I have taken up in thus attempting to reconcile Science and Religion, let them pause to remember the mistakes of the church in the past in condemning truths which the church and world generally have long since accepted as established. Let them also remember that within their own memory, it was the almost universal practice of religious preachers and teachers to preach and teach a literal doctrine of hell fire, which they described in scriptural language as a lake of fire and brimstone. (Rev. 20.10.) To-day the latter doctrine is generally regarded as untenable to the attributes of a God who is the Spirit of Love; therefore, any scriptural references of this kind upon the subject of hell are now rightly regarded as metaphor.

To-morrow, when knowledge will be common to all, Genesis too will have to be relegated to the field of metaphor. Many of the most learned divines already take up this position on the matter.

If we accept the evidences adduced by Haeckel, Wallace, Darwin, Gallileo, Ball, Fiske, Drummond, Romanes, Miller, Lyall, Avebury, Geike, J. Croll, Lewis H. Morgan, Tylor, Baker, Mason, Hadley, Melville, Ferri, Toynbee, Cunningham, Ward, Hegel, Hamilton, Seligman, Marx, Rogers, Professor Patten, Gunmere, Sir Oliver Lodge, and other scientists, biologists, geologists, astronomers, historians, economists, sociologists, and psychologists, we may look upon and directly study all the forces and processes necessary to give a rational explanation of all the main facts of life, including the process by which man himself came to his present physical form. We by these means are able to conceive a more intelligent understanding of God at work through ourselves upon the perfection of His plan of life.

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Printed and published for the Proprietors, the International Socialist Club, by HENRY EDMUND HOLLAND, at 61 Goulburn-street, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

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